

Torrance Women Seen As Charming Commodity

By BECKY SCHAEFFER

When I was a little girl, some twenty years ago, I remember looking at the society page with a combination of envy and odd detachment. The wealthy women, in dripping furs and glaring jewelry, made news by dint of their idleness. How different is the society page of today! Even the connotation of "society" has changed. Now, in looking at the pictures, I see my neighbors and often friends, making news because they are doing something that, aside from giving them a break from the family, is immeasurably useful to the community.

Torrance women have banded together in many groups, among them mothers who are interested in how the decisions of their government will affect the world of their children; others, with an eye to the immediate present, plan fund raising programs for Little League, donate their time to one of our great hospitals or work within the framework of their churches to better the lot of troubled families. Each of these organizations has a different and useful purpose.

Many groups like the Torrance Juniors and the Dianas work all year to accumulate funds for one specific organization. Sometimes it's an orphanage, or the YMCA youth activities, sometimes a center that cares for retarded or crippled children. These women have learned the wonderful secret of having fun with a purpose.

Among the women I have met in my own work, the average number of organizations is three. They usually include PTA, Little League and a religious or civic group. Seasons for these different causes overlap only slightly, so that one is starting just as the last is about over. Then, during July and August, Mom gets a tan, relaxes and recharges her battery for the coming year.

I am occasionally asked how I manage to juggle my many interests, and the answer to that is, being organized. It is necessary to look forward a week or two, and plan housework in such a way that everything will fit. The home, we all agree, must come first.

During the fall and winter, when the children are in school and the baby can be left for an occasional afternoon with a good sitter, my time is devoted to the Southwest Association for Retarded Children. Housework is sandwiched between interviews with those who share our interest, editing the newsletter, getting out publicity to a dozen newspapers and taking part in study groups or committee work.

In the spring, there are Little League dances and other fund raising campaigns that help keep our boy and his friends out of trouble. Twice a month, all year round, I enjoy the company of other women who love to sew, as I do. Organization has made the Seamstress a real pleasure because there is so little work involved.

It is rather sad that there is no way to measure the good that women are doing for Torrance, and other cities like ours. No one can say which boy might have gotten into trouble if he hadn't been hitting a baseball or feeding a fire at a "Y" camp.

It is known that from thirty to forty per cent of the funds which support clinics and centers for physically and mentally handicapped are donated by women's groups, and of the rest, unless there is government aid, women working in such organizations as the United Fund, A.I.D. and Red Cross are responsible for a large part of the money collected. All this indicates that the

woman who is "just a housewife" is probably the greatest commodity our town has. Why are they willing to work so hard for progress that can't be measured? I believe that it's because the modern woman, aside from wanting to use up her leisure enjoyable, feels that our troubled times deserve an answer.

While intellectuals warn of the "decline and fall of the American empire," the wives and mothers are trying to prove it isn't so. Have they been successful? Let's look back a little.

What did young boys do for fun when you were ten? Where did parents go when they found themselves with a severely handicapped child? Did your mother have a free clinic where she could take you for checkups and inoculations, run by a volunteer staff? What happened to unwed mothers, just ten years ago?

In Torrance alone, there are more civic and religious groups working to make a better life for you and your family than can be listed in the space of an article.

If you have a good job, can afford to have a good private physician and do not have a handicapped child, then you are among the blessed. If in addition, you have Boy Scouts, Cubs, the YWCA and CYO and Little League for your boy, Camp Fire Girls, Girl Scouts, Indian Maidens and more for your girl, you are doubly blessed.

Adults, both men and women, give their time to Pony League, car clubs, Hi-Y and a dozen other activities for teenagers. It is too much to believe that such a society is headed for the trashcan.

If you have not investigated our local resources, and find that time is dragging a little, now that the children are back in school, why not look around? There is no one who does not have a useful talent, and you may discover some that you didn't know existed. The people you'll meet will be the kind you'll want for friends.

Need Clothes; Drive Starts

St. Vincent de Paul Society is conducting its annual drive to replenish depleted stocks of fall and winter clothing for needy Southland families. Ssgr. James E. Dolan, director, and E. Dolan, director, announced today.

Needed are all types and sizes of clothing for men, women and children, especially warm suits, dresses, topcoats, sweaters, raincoats, undergarments, shoes and stockings, Msgr. Dolan said. Blankets, bedclothes and all types of home furnishings also are wanted.

For a St. Vincent de Paul truck, call 483-6030, Los Angeles; Terminal 4-4533, Harbor area and Orange County; Poplar 3-5174, San Fernando Valley; SYcamore 9-1127, San Gabriel Valley, or HEMlock 7-0691, Long Beach.

Local Cancer Society District Reviews Its Activities

"The eradication of cancer as a blight on mankind could come much sooner if people across the United States would devote as much interest in the problem as have the citizens of this area."

So stated Mrs. P. B. Marsh, District General Chairman of the Centinela Valley-South Bay District of the American Cancer Society, as she reviewed the activities and accomplishments of the local District of the Society, during its past fiscal year.

"We have exceeded our fund-collecting quota for the year, and these funds will greatly help scientists and doctors in their fight against cancer," continued Mrs. Marsh.

In the local District's annual report, it was announced that 2,570 local people contributed over 92,000 volunteer hours to various projects for the Society.

During the Society's 1963 fund raising crusade, 2,121 volunteers donated 52,737 hours, to collect funds and

distribute literature for the Society's year-round fight against cancer.

Over 41,000 cancer dressings were made by local volunteers, for use by Centinela Valley-South Bay cancer patients. The Cancer Society makes available to any local cancer patients dressings of various sizes and shapes. One hundred and fifty two members of local dressing units contributed 31,541 volunteer hours towards the making of dressings.

Attendance at the 196 educational programs put on by the local District of the Society numbered 16,511 persons. Over one-third of these programs were presented to high school students, in an effort to educate teenagers in the prevention and detection of cancer. Thousands of local high school students have seen the film produced by the Society, "Is Smoking Worth It?"

Over 40,000 pieces of educational literature were distributed during the past fiscal year by volunteers.

Local Cancer Society volunteers aided many cancer patients in the area by transporting them to and from cancer treatment centers.

Mrs. Marsh stated, "Local physicians volunteered 228 hours by serving as doctors-speakers at film showings sponsored by the Society. This represents the great interest shown by the medical profession in this community in the American Cancer Society's work."

In addition to their education and patients service activities, volunteers from the local District have devoted thousands of hours to the Cancer Society's Epidemiology (Life History Research Study) Survey. Over 4,500 local residents are participating in a six year survey involving living habits, medical histories, racial origins and various other information that may give clues to the causes of cancer.

Mrs. Marsh concluded by saying, "Many more volunteers are needed by the local District of the American Cancer Society. Those interested in aiding the fight against cancer may contact



MRS. P. B. MARSH, district general chairman of the local office of the American Cancer Society, reviews achievements and goals of the past year.

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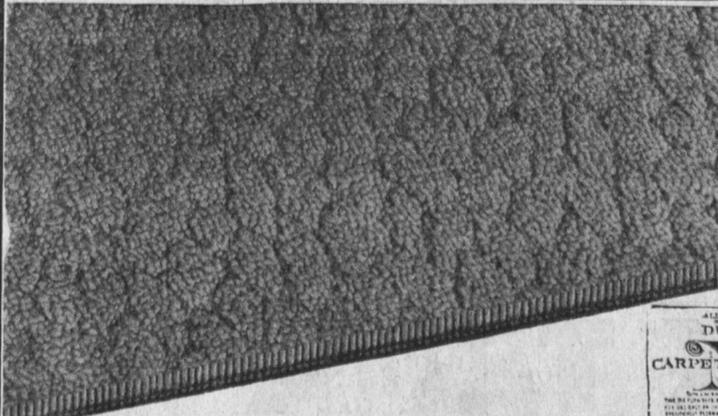
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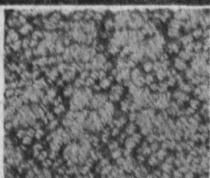
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